AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following claim listing:

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An appliance for cooking food under pressure, the appliance comprising ~~at least~~:

[[·]] a vessel (1) and a lid (2) for being fitted and locked on said vessel (1) in order to form a leaktight cooking enclosure;

~~· one or more jaws~~ at least one jaw (3) for locking the lid (2) relative to the vessel (1); ~~and~~

~~· drive~~ means (5) for driving said at least one jaw (3) between a locking position and an unlocking position; and

~~the appliance being characterized in that it includes~~ a module (6) for fitting on and releasably securing to the lid (2), said module (6) including ~~at least~~ a device (7, 8, 17) for controlling locking and unlocking of the lid (2) relative to the vessel (1).

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it includes~~ further comprising a timer (11) optionally removably mounted on the module (6).

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that~~ claim 2, wherein the module (6) includes a pressure regulator valve (12):

[[·]] which is arranged within the module so as to be in leaktight communication with a regulator opening (12B) formed through the lid (2);

[[·]] which is responsive to the pressure that exists inside the cooking enclosure; and

[[·]] which is mounted to move between two stable abutment positions, a first position in which it closes off communication from the enclosure to the outside so long as the internal pressure is less than a predetermined pressure P_1, and a second position in which it puts the inside of the enclosure into communication with the outside via a steam outlet (13) as soon as the internal pressure reaches substantially the predetermined pressure P_1.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein the module (6) incorporates a pressure sensor and/or a temperature sensor (15).

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~claim 3 and claim 4, characterized in that~~ claim 4, wherein the temperature sensor (15) is disposed in the vicinity of the steam outlet (13) so as to sense the increase in temperature that results from steam passing through the steam outlet (13).

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~claims 2 and 5, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the temperature sensor (15) is functionally connected to the timer (11) so as to cause it to be triggered as soon as the temperature rise is sensed.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the module (6) incorporates an excess pressure safety valve (16):

[[·]] which is arranged within the module (6) so as to be in leaktight communication with a pressure relief opening (16B) formed through the lid (2);

[[·]] which is responsive to the pressure that exists inside the cooking enclosure; and

[[·]] which is mounted to move between two stable abutment positions, a first position in which said safety valve (16) closes off communication from the enclosure to the outside so long as the internal pressure is below a predetermined pressure P_2, and a second position in which it puts the inside of the enclosure into communication with the outside as soon as the internal pressure reaches substantially the predetermined pressure P_2.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the module (6) incorporates the ~~drive~~ driving means (5) for driving the at least one jaw (3).

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the module (6) incorporates the at least one jaw (3).

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein:

[[·]] the at least one jaw (3) is mounted to be moved in translation by at least one respective drive arm (5) between the locking position and the unlocking position; and

[[·]] the device (7, 8, 17) for controlling locking and unlocking comprises a main control member (7) mounted to move in translation and an intermediate transmission part (17) positioned to turn freely relative to the main control member (7) and to the ~~drive~~ driving means (5), so as to be turned by the main control member (7) in order to engage the ~~drive~~ driving means (5) so as to govern the displacement thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that~~ claim 10, wherein the module (6) incorporates opening/closing safety means (21) which are arranged within the module (6) so as to be in leaktight communication with a safety opening (21B) formed through the lid (2), the position thereof being responsive to the pressure or the temperature that exists in the cooking enclosure, said safety means (21) being mounted to move between two stable abutment positions, a first position in which said safety means (21) puts the inside of the enclosure into communication with the outside below a predetermined internal pressure P_3, and a second position in which it closes off communication from the enclosure to the outside when the pressure P_3 is reached, in order to enable the pressure inside the appliance to rise and cooking to take place.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~claims 10 and 11, characterized in that~~ claim 11, wherein the intermediate transmission part

(17) is shaped so as to co-operate with the safety means (21) so that said safety means prevent the intermediate transmission part (17) from turning and thus prevent the lid (2) from being unlocked while the internal pressure is greater than or equal to the pressure P_3, said intermediate transmission part (17) also being shaped to prevent the safety means (21) from reaching its position in which it closes off communication from the enclosure to the outside when said intermediate transmission part (17) is in a position other than its position corresponding to locking.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that~~ claim 11, wherein the module (6) incorporates bistable leakage means:

[[·]] which are arranged within the module so as to be in leaktight communication with a leak opening formed through the lid; and

[[·]] which are suitable for taking up firstly an open position allowing air to leak from the inside of the cooking enclosure to the outside, and a closed position corresponding to no leakage of air to the outside.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~claims 11 and 13, or 12 and 13, characterized in that~~ claim 13, wherein the bistable leakage means are integrated in the safety means (21).

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bistable leakage means are integrated in a pressure gauge rod and include, as a moving shutter element, a bimetallic strip supported by said pressure gauge rod.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 15, characterized in that~~ claim 13, wherein the bistable leakage means are means for venting air from the appliance.

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the module is fixed to the

lid by means of a screw-and-nut system (22, 23) that tightens progressively in co-operation with a fastening opening (22B) formed through the lid (2).

18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fastening opening (22B) is formed substantially at the center of the lid.

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The cooking appliance according to ~~claims 6, 7, 10, 15, 16, and 18, characterized in that there are~~ claim 1, further comprising two jaws (3) mounted to move radially on the lid (2) by two respective drive arms (5) between the locking position and the unlocking position, each of said drive arms (5) being provided with an axial guide stud (10A, 10B), ~~and in that~~ wherein the module (6) comprises:

~~firstly~~ a seat (18) presenting an inside face (18A) and an opposite outside face (18B), ~~which~~ said seat ~~provides the~~ providing an interface with the lid (2) when the module (6) is fitted on and secured to the lid, said seat (18) ~~being provided~~ comprising:

~~- with the~~ an excess pressure safety valve (16);

~~- with the~~ a pressure regulator valve (12) provided with a user-adjustable rating system (14);

~~- with~~ a steam outlet duct (13) starting downstream from the pressure regulator valve (12) and having ~~the~~ a temperature sensor (15) mounted in the vicinity thereof;

~~- with~~ a one-piece assembly including ~~the~~ air venting means integrated in ~~the~~ a pressure gauge rod (21);

~~- with~~ a fixing pin (22) extending substantially from the center of the outside face (18B) in order to secure the module (6) releasably to the lid (2);

~~- with~~ an assembly pin (19) extending substantially from the center of the inside face (18A), and on which there is pivotally mounted a pivoting plate (17) as an intermediate transmission part, ~~which~~ the pivoting plate (17) [[is]] provided with two oblong drive slots (17A, 17B) disposed symmetrically about the assembly ~~axis~~ pin (19), said oblong drive slots (17A, 17B) co-operating with two respective rectilinear oblong slots (19A, 19B) formed

radially in the seat (18) to define two engagement openings (20A, 20B) for engaging each of said guide studs (10A, 10B); and

~~, with~~ an opening pushbutton (7) mounted to move radially relative to the assembly ~~axis~~ pin (19) and including an oblong drive orifice (7A) extending obliquely relative to the radial direction and co-operating with a guide peg (17C) secured to the pivoting plate (17) so that radial displacement of the opening pushbutton (7) causes the pivoting plate (17) to turn, thereby causing the engagement openings (20A, 20B) to move radially and entrain the guide studs (10A, 10B) and thus the arms (5) and the jaws (3) to the unlocking position; and

~~and secondly~~ a top cap (26) which covers the seat (18) and all of the elements that are mounted therewith, ~~and~~ said top cap (26) comprising ~~at least~~:

[[·]] a housing (11C) for receiving ~~the~~ a timer (11) provided with at least one electrical connection tab (11D) functionally connected to the temperature sensor (15); and

[[·]] an axially movable closure pushbutton (8).

20. (Currently Amended) A module (6) for a food cooking appliance for being used and mounted on a lid (2) of ~~an~~ said appliance for cooking food under pressure in accordance with ~~any one of claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1.